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Nabekura, Yuko

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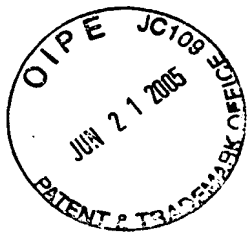
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Firm Name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP		
Signature	<i>Chun-Pok Leung</i>		
Printed name	Chun-Pok Leung		
Date	June 17, 2005	Reg. No.	41,405

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-078400US
Client Ref. No.: 340200942US01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

YUKO NABEKURA *et al.*

Application No.: 10/600,801

Filed: June 19, 2003

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING
DEVICE AND SETTING
METHOD FOR SAME

Customer No.: 20350

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2818

Confirmation No.: 9709

**RENEWED PETITION TO MAKE
SPECIAL FOR NEW APPLICATION
UNDER M.P.E.P. § 708.02, VIII & 37
C.F.R. § 1.102(d)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Decision dated May 4, 2005 dismissing the original petition to make special, Applicants respectfully submit a renewed petition to make special the above-identified application under MPEP § 708.02, VIII & 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d). The application has not received any examination by an Examiner.

(a) The Commissioner has previously been authorized to charge the petition fee of \$130 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) and any other fees associated with this paper to Deposit Account 20-1430.

(b) All the claims are believed to be directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, then Applicants will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

(c) Pre-examination searches were made of U.S. issued patents, including a classification search and a keyword search. The searches were performed on or around May 11, 2004, and were conducted by a professional search firm, Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C. The classification search covered Classes 713 (subclass 1), 710 (subclasses 8 and 10), 711 (subclass 170), and 714 (subclass 7). The keyword search was performed in the U.S., EPO, and Japanese patent databases and in foreign (non-U.S.) files on the Delphion system. The literature search was conducted using the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins database and the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) subscription database on the Web. The inventors further provided references considered most closely related to the subject matter of the present application (see references #7 to #10), which were cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 19, 2003.

(d) The following references, copies of which were previously submitted, are deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,721,952;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,578,091;
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,909,592;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,430,855;
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 5,237,689;
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,822,614;
- (7) Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-288088;
- (8) Japanese Patent Publication No. 06-214766;
- (9) Japanese Patent Publication No. 08-212096; and
- (10) Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-337863.

(e) Set forth below is a detailed discussion of references which points out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

A. Claimed Embodiments of the Present Invention

The claimed embodiments relate to an information processing device capable of automatically initializing external apparatuses when external apparatuses are connected thereto, and a method for controlling initialization of external apparatuses. The method

makes use of hardware type information (information that is unique to each device type) and base type information (attribute information indicating the characteristics of the hardware).

Independent claim 1 recites an information processing device for connecting to one or more external devices. The information processing device comprises a storage area configured to store information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, which is referenced when the one or more external devices to be connected to the information processing device are initialized. The storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. A processor is configured to obtain hardware type information and base type information from a connected external device and to determine, for initializing the connected external device, whether or not the hardware type information obtained from the external device is stored in the first storage area, and if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area.

Independent claim 5 recites an information processing device for connecting to one or more external devices. The information processing device comprises a storage area configured to store information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, which is referenced when the one or more external devices to be connected to the information processing device are initialized. The storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. A processor is configured to compare the base type information relating to the characteristics of the external device obtained from the external device with the attribute information accumulated in the second storage area, and if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to

initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device.

Independent claim 7 recites an information processing device for connecting to one or more external devices. The information processing device comprises a storage area configured to store information relating to a predetermined set of external devices, which is referenced when the one or more external devices to be connected to the information processing device are initialized. The storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. A processor is configured, if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information.

Independent claim 11 recites a method for controlling initialization of an external device which is to be connected to an information processing device. The method comprises obtaining hardware type information and base type information of the connected external device; and determining whether or not the obtained hardware type information of the connected external device is present in a storage area of the information processing device for storing information relating to a predetermined set of external devices. The storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. If the obtained hardware type information is not present in the storage area, the connected external device is initialized by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area.

Independent claim 14 recites a method for controlling initialization of an external device which is to be connected to an information processing device. The method comprises obtaining hardware type information and base type information of the connected external device; and determining whether or not the obtained hardware type information of the connected external device is present in a storage area of the information processing device for storing information relating to a predetermined set of external devices. The storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. If the obtained hardware type information is not present in the storage area, the method comprises comparing the base type information relating to the characteristics of the external device obtained from the connected external device with the attribute information accumulated in the second storage area, and if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, initializing the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device.

Independent claim 16 recites a method for controlling initialization of an external device which is to be connected to an information processing device. The method comprises obtaining hardware type information and base type information of the connected external device; and determining whether or not the obtained hardware type information of the connected external device is present in a storage area of the information processing device for storing information relating to a predetermined set of external devices. The storage area comprises a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. If the obtained hardware type information is not present in the storage area, the method comprises comparing the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and initializing the connected external device by

using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information.

In sum, the independent claims recite a first storage area for storing hardware type information including unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices, and a second storage area for storing attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned respectively to the predetermined set of external devices. They further recite initializing the connected external device using the base type information relating to the external device according to one of three criteria:

1. if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or
2. if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or
3. if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

B. Discussion of the References

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,721,952

This reference discloses techniques for a computer system to automatically detect the type of hard disk drive installed in the system even if the hard disk drive has been replaced or upgraded. The method includes retrieving data from a partition table and calculating the necessary parameters from the values in the partition table. In the specific embodiment, the method includes calculating a HEAD parameter and a SECTORS/TRACK

parameter from certain addresses stored in the partition table (step 55); sending an IDENTIFY DRIVE (ID) command to the hard disk drive (step 70); and calculating a CYLINDER parameter (step 60), using information in the partition table (step 85) or additional information provided by certain types of hard disk drives in response to the ID command (step 80). The detection of the type of hard disk drive is based on calculating a CYLINDER parameter of the disk drive.

The reference is directed to automatically detecting the type of hark disk drive installed in the system by calculating the necessary parameters. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

2. U.S. Patent No. 6,578,091

This reference discloses a device unit DU with a first storage unit SP₁ in a processor and storing a first identifier associated with configuration data, and a second storage unit SP₂ inseparably arranged on a rear panel printed circuit board RP of the device unit and storing a second identifier with which configuration data of the device unit can be unmistakably recognized and associated. A comparator in the processor compares the second identifier with the first identifier, and releases the configuration data stored in the first storage

unit to the device unit if the first identifier conforms with the second identifier. Column 2, lines 43-50.

The reference discloses comparing the first identifier with the second identifier and releasing configuration data if the first identifier conforms with the second identifier. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

3. U.S. Patent No. 5,909,592

This reference discloses a method of recognizing peripheral devices coupled to an interface. The method enables operating systems that otherwise only support sequentially ordered drives to support access to devices coupled to the interface in any order. The computer system includes a ROM 14 having an integrated device electronics (IDE) configuration table 30 and an extended drive parameter table, EDPT, 34. The IDE configuration table contains all configuration information necessary to configure a device in conformance with an AT attachment committee specification promulgated September 1993. All of the hard drives are auto configurable and the user is not required to do anything. The user plugs in the drive and the basic input/output system (BIOS) encoded in the ROM 14 issues an identify drive command to the IDE device by writing an opcode for the command to an I/O port. The IDE device responds with data which the BIOS interprets to configured the

drive. Not every drive vendor implements a response to this command in the same way, and not every drive responds to a reset in the exact same way. Regardless of how the drive is reset and regardless of how the drive responds to the identify drive command, the BIOS can auto configure the drive. Column 3, lines 22-51. The reference is directed to auto-configuring drives that are auto-configurable.

The reference discloses comparing a configuration table to a device ID received from a device. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

4. U.S. Patent No. 5,430,855

This reference discloses a control apparatus that automatically compensates for any nonuniformity among the data storage elements by selecting a set of physical characteristics that define a common data storage element format. The selected set of physical characteristics may not match any of the disk drives but each disk drive can emulate these selected characteristics. This capability enables the disk drives in the data storage subsystem to be replaced by nonidentical disk drives in a nondisruptive manner to provide continuous data availability. Column 4, lines 6-35.

The reference is directed to a control apparatus that automatically compensates for any nonuniformity among data storage elements by selecting a set of physical characteristics that define a common data storage element format. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

5. U.S. Patent No. 5,237,689

This reference discloses a system and a method for a personal computer (PC) to auto-detect the configuration of mass storage devices installed by the user. At least one drive table contains numerous configurations pertaining to industry-standard mass storage devices. These numerous configurations are compared to the configuration which is auto-detected. If a match occurs (210), the PC adopts that configuration. If no match occurs, the user is permitted to input a custom type or select one of numerous generic configurations pertaining to mass storage devices (212). Column 5, lines 24-29 & Fig. 2.

The reference discloses comparing auto-detected drive characteristics with a table of devices for a match. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained

hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

6. U.S. Patent No. 5,822,614

This reference discloses a self-identifying peripheral device 210 that communicates information to a processor of a computer system 200 to help the processor determine hardware operating characteristics (step 330). If the peripheral device is identified as a type which is not recognized by an operating system 206 operating in conjunction with the computer system (step 340), a determination is made as to whether the operating system and the peripheral device are compatible based on the logical attribute obtained from the peripheral device. The operating system and the peripheral device communicate if it is determined that the operating system and the peripheral device are compatible and hence can operate together. See Fig. 4. The reference is directed to allowing communication between the operating system and the peripheral device based on compatibility.

The reference discloses an operating system that determines if the system can communicate with a device by reading disk format ID information. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute

information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

7. Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-288088

This reference discloses a method for automatically generating hardware constitution information without preliminarily generating a system. Device information includes device numbers and device attributes which are given for the purpose of specifying device type names and devices. The device information is set to input/output controller 2-4 from the external, and is stored in the input/output controllers 2-4. A central processing unit 1 refers to the device information in the input/output controller 2-4 to search devices 51-53, 61-63, and 71-73 connected to the central processing unit 1 by the initialization processing at the time of starting a control program 11. Hardware constitution information of connected devices 51-53, 61-63, and 71-73 including device classifications, device numbers, access bus numbers, and device attributes is edited from referred device information as a hardware constitution information table for the control program. This hardware constitution information table is generated on the memory of the central processing unit 1.

As described in the present application at paragraph [0009], the reference is directed to one example of automatic generation of composition information by an information processing device, involving a method wherein access path information to the devices in question is automatically associated with the unique device information, such as device attributes and the like, and collated in a format whereby it can be referenced by a control device controlling the various connected external devices. However, in cases of this kind, it is necessary to predict in advance the types of device which may be connected to the information processing device, and to store capability information, and the like, for these

devices in association with the model names of each device. As a result, it is not possible to adapt to cases where a new external device which is not predicted by the storage control device is connected. In particular, in the case of external devices such as a physical storage media, which are improving in capabilities at a dramatic rate, upgrade versions designed to improve performance are being provided in a successive fashion. It is of course impossible for all of the attribute information, and the like, relating to new external devices which are newly released onto the market, to be stored in advance in the information processing device. See paragraph [0010].

The reference does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

8. Japanese Patent Publication No. 06-214766

This reference discloses a generation system for hardware constitution information. Various controllers (13, 15, 17) connected to respective ports (P0, P1 etc.) on a system 10 are provided with means which previously hold connection information of connection devices being the objects of control in the rise processing of the controller concerned. A processing unit (CPU11) controlling a system is provided with means transmitting a command collecting information of the device connected to the controller

concerned to the respective controllers by an instruction from an operator, reading connection information of the connection device from the respective controllers, generating the parameter of hardware constitution information which is required for the system generation of the computer system based on connection information of the device.

The reference discloses generating parameter of hardware constitution information that is required for system generation of the computer system based on connection information of the device. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

9. Japanese Patent Publication No. 08-212096

This reference discloses a dynamic constitution optimization system 200 having a working parameter change part 201, a state analysis part 202, and state monitor part 203, a working parameter work part 204, a working parameter part 205, an interface part 206, and a working parameter backup file 207. The parts 201, 202 repetitively and trially change the working parameter and analyze the system performance repetitively in a fixed period. As a result, the optimum working parameter is obtained. As the changing job of the working parameter is automated, the artificial working mistakes can be evaded and the operation

affecting troubles can be prevented. Furthermore, it is possible to optimize the working parameter while suppressing the influences to jobs.

The reference is directed to repetitively and iteratively changing the working parameter and analyzing the system performance repetitively in a fixed period to obtain the optimum working parameter. It does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

10. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-337863

This reference discloses a system and a method to readily authorize or inhibit access to a storage area under the control of a storage controller by automatically registering connected host computers. By obtaining N-Port Name information (503) included in a login from a host computer (502) and displaying the information in the state of a table marking access permission both of a subordinate LU and of the host computer (507), an administrator can create security tables of the storage controller only by setting flag information for or against the access (508).

As described in the present application at paragraph [0011] and [0012], even if the external devices connected to the information processing device are identified by some method or other, the subsequent task of generating composition information which determines the manner in which these devices are to be used has become increasingly complex in recent years. In order to operate a large scale storage control device, in particular, unless the storage control device assumes a state where it can access the external storage devices, and assign standard composition information to a certain extent, then the storage devices will not be able to perform initial operations, and hence the composition of the storage devices cannot be adjusted to an optimum configuration.

The reference does not disclose initializing the connected external device based on base type information as claimed. More specifically, the reference fails to teach initializing the connected external device according to one of three criteria: (1) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to initialize the connected external device by referring to the base type information relating to the external device obtained from the external device, and attribute information stored in the second storage area (claims 1 and 11); or (2) if the base type information matches the attribute information corresponding to the unique information assigned to one matching external device in the predetermined set of external devices, to initialize the connected external device by identifying the external device as the one matching external device (claims 5 and 14); or (3) if the obtained hardware type information is not stored in the first storage area, to compare the hardware type information obtained from the external device with the hardware type information stored in the first storage area, and to initialize the connected external device by using the base type information corresponding to the hardware type information stored in the first storage area which most closely resembles the obtained hardware type information (claims 7 and 16).

(f) In view of this petition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a first Office Action at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



Chun-Pok Leung
Reg. No. 41,405

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RL:rl
60516912 v1